

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 10-18 are rejected. Claim 9 is objected to. Claim 4 has been amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. The Applicant has amended the specification to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Applicant has amended claim 4 to delete the phrase "thrust plate" to clarify the claim. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claim 4.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 10 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakamaki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,217,033). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 calls for a chuck having at least one bearing member disposed intermediate a nut and a central body where radial displacement of the bearing member results in frictional engagement between the bearing member and a portion of the chuck which is non-rotatable relative to the central body (emphasis added). The Applicant respectfully submits that Sakamaki et al. does not disclose a chuck as defined by claim 1. On the contrary, Sakamaki et al. discloses a chuck having rotary sleeve 2, annular member 8 and rotary nut 3 as members being rotatable relative

to body 1. Elements 2, 3 and 8 are rotatable relative to body 1 to cause claws 4 to translate relative to nut 3. When the chuck is operated to cause claws 4 to grip the tool, balls 6 are forced to move radially outwardly into engagement with small holes formed in annular member 8. Annular member 8 is rotatable relative to body 1. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the bearing member of Sakamaki et al. is placed in engagement with annular member 8 where annular member 8 is rotatable relative to body 1. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102 rejection to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 12-16.

Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2113125. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 calls for a chuck having at least one bearing member disposed intermediate a nut and a central body where radial displacement of the bearing member results in frictional engagement between the bearing member and a portion of the chuck which is non-rotatable relative to the central body (emphasis added). The Applicant respectfully submits that GB 2113125 does not disclose each and every element of claim 1. On the contrary, GB 2113126 describes a chuck having a pressed-on clamping sleeve 4 fixed to a threaded ring 3. Threaded ring 3 is operatively connected to clamping jaws 2 via a thread. Threaded ring 3 and pressed-on clamping sleeve 4 are rotatable relative to body 1. Threaded ring 3 and pressed-on clamping sleeve 4 may be rotated relative to body 1 to cause clamping jaws 2 to grip a drilling tool. At this time, spring clamp 5 is forced radially outwardly to engage annular groove 8 formed in clamping sleeve 4. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the chuck of GB 2113126 discloses bringing spring clip 5 into frictional engagement

with a portion of the chuck which is rotatable relative to central body 1. Therefore, the limitation of claim 1 stating that the bearing member is in frictional engagement with a portion of the chuck which is non-rotatable relative to the central body is not disclosed. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102 rejections to claims 1-3, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 16 as being anticipated by GB 2113125.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamaki et al. in view of Huff et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,145,194). Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamaki et al. in view of Huff et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,531,461). Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2113125 in view of Huff et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,145,194). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicant respectfully relies on the arguments previously set forth regarding Sakamaki et al. and GB 2113125. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103 rejections being based at least in part on Sakamaki et al. or GB 2113125.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter at claim 9. However, as previously argued, it is the Applicant's contention that each of presently pending claims 1-18 are novel and not obvious in view of the art of record.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 8, 2006

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